



Faculty of Arts and Social Science  
Psychology

## Syllabus

### Psychology III Scientific Fields in Psychology

**Course Code:**

PSGC20

**Course Title:**

Psychology III Scientific Fields in Psychology  
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**Credits:**

30

**Degree Level:**

Undergraduate level

**Progressive Specialisation:**

First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, contains degree proj. for B.A./B.Sc. (G2E)

**Major Field of Study:**

PSA (Psychology)

#### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science 2015-03-07, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2015 at Karlstad University.

#### Prerequisites

Psychology 52.5 ECTS credits, of which at least 22.5 cr must be at G1F level or higher, including Research Methodology 7.5 ECTS cr from the course PSGB04 Psychology II 30 ECTS cr or the equivalent.

#### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- give an account of theory of science perspectives in psychology,
- carry out focused information searches in Swedish and international research databases,
- formulate research questions and hypotheses based on theory and the object of study,
- relate questions and hypotheses to appropriate methods for collecting and processing data,
- plan and conduct research investigations,
- use the statistical software SPSS for descriptive and inferential statistics,
- perform certain statistical calculations manually,
- apply qualitative and quantitative methods for data collection and analysis,
- present, give an account of and critically review their own and other a research project orally and in writing,
- take an ethical approach to research investigations.

#### Content

The course comprises three modules.

Module 1 - Research Areas in Psychology (4.5 credits)

This module focuses on the historical development of the study of psychology, as well as its various perspectives relating to the history of ideas, the theory of science, and to psychological theory and

method. Students survey current international research in the field, and practise making systematic searches for relevant data in international databases, and communicating research results orally or in writing.

#### **Module 2 - Method (10.5 credits)**

This module focuses on methodological aspects of psychological research with special emphasis on scientific approach, design, data collection, and data processing of qualitative and quantitative data. Students practise operationalising psychological questions and hypotheses in order to collect and process qualitative data in accordance with thematic analysis, and quantitative data in accordance with relevant non-parametric and parametric statistical methods and with the help of the statistical software programme SPSS.

#### **Module 3 - Empirical Study (15 credits)**

In this module, students translate a relevant research question or hypothesis into an actual small-scale scientific study. The study should be clearly linked to relevant fields in the research area of international psychology. At the end of the module there is an open seminar in which students present and defend their reports and act as a peer reviewer of another student's report. The module includes two mandatory components: active participation in group supervision seminars and in at least two final seminars, in which the student neither presents nor serve as a peer reviewer.

Supervision is only offered to students while the course is in progress. Students who reregister for the course in a later term will be offered additional supervision to the extent made possible by available resources.

#### **Reading List**

See separate document.

#### **Examination**

Module 1 - Assessment is based on hand-in assignments, presented and discussed in mandatory seminars.

Module 2 - Assessment of qualitative research methods is based on a written exam, and active participation in seminars and workshops. Assessment of quantitative research methods and statistics is based on individual hand-in assignments, participation in statistical lab sessions and a written exam.

Module 3 - Assessment is based on an individual hand-in assignment, participation in mandatory supervision seminars and a thesis, presented and discussed in mandatory seminars. Assessment regarding the purpose, questions, and method of the thesis and basic theoretical frame and ethical considerations. This proposal must be approved by the examiner before the project can proceed. Assessment is also based on the student's performance as peer reviewer of a fellow-student's thesis.

The number of examinations for module 3 is limited to five.

#### **Grades**

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course. The grade of Distinction for the course is only awarded to students who have earned the grade of Distinction for Module 3.

#### **Quality Assurance**

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

**Course Certificate**

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

**Additional information**

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.